

DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE & ABUSE 2019 CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

KEYNOTE

How Language Helps Shape Our Response to Sexual Violence *Claudia Bayliff*

“Language can never be neutral; it creates versions of reality.”¹ Yet when we discuss sexual assault, we constantly use the language of consensual sex to describe assaultive acts. We use euphemisms, erotic or affectionate terms to portray violent acts. This language often implies consent and romance, rather than criminal acts. In addition, we describe violence against women in passive terms, which allows the perpetrators of this violence to remain invisible and unaccountable. We also use language that objectifies or blames sexual assault victims.

This interactive session will explore the language of sexual assault: how we talk about and write about this crime. We will discuss specific examples of the language we use and explore how to discuss sexual assault in a way that more accurately depicts the crime.

WORKSHOPS

HerStory: History of Violence Against Women *Shelly Meisner, MSHB, YWCA*

How did we get here? HerStory analyses some of the historical moments that provided the groundwork for the violence against women movement and explores how the past has molded where we are today. This workshop will examine our collective past through the lens of women’s experiences and discover the social and legal moments that changed history.

Compassion Fatigue: The Cost of Caring *Lisa Bomley*

The work we do is challenging, rewarding and intense. Are you enjoying it like you did when you first started? Are you weary, cynical, or struggling to see the good anymore? The "Cost of Caring," as Compassion Fatigue is often labeled, can touch the most caring and dedicated nurses, social workers, physicians, first responders, law enforcement, attorneys, judges, advocates, and support workers. It can also lead to changes in the way you see the world and those you care about. This workshop will provide you with a knowledge base for compassion fatigue and how to recognize it in your own life and your workplace. Participants will complete brief assessments and learn applicable (and even fun) strategies to immediately implement in day to day life.

Leading the Next Generation *Bryan Lyda, ICASDV*

Explore and mobilize the unique role young people have in creating social change and a future without violence. Realize the power of partnering with young people to achieve our collective vision and identify strategies and resource to engage and support youth in ending violence in our communities. Working from a worldview model, participants will gain some concrete ideas to engage youth in their organization/community.

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Protecting the Sacred: A Primer on Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women

Tai Simpson, ICASDV

Violence against women has been a longstanding issue that needs to be addressed in the United States, and for some women, this violence is more prevalent. Indigenous women face the highest rates per capita out of any other race. Statistical data is complicated by inaccurate or absence of race documentation, misreporting gender, and underreporting by victims. Nevertheless, the current data available provides context that illustrates the necessity of community engagement in increasing awareness and addressing all types of violence against Indigenous women. This workshop and discussion explores how advocates and community partners can support awareness and prevention in addition to contributing to healing events.

Answering the Hard Questions About Sexual Violence *Claudia Bayliff*

Rape deniers use two main strategies to argue that sexual violence is not a serious problem: (1) they criticize rape statistics as exaggerated reports; and (2) they claim most rape victims lie and most reports of rape are false. Anyone who ever does a public presentation about sexual violence, or who has to talk about sexual violence to any group of people, is inevitably asked challenging questions about “miscommunications,” false reports, the role of alcohol, and rape statistics. We often struggle with how to answer these skeptical questions effectively. Learn the latest research on false reports of rape, strategies about how to evaluate rape statistics, and formulate responses to questions about “miscommunications” and the role of alcohol in sexual assault cases.

Crooked Beads & Other Stories for Community Building *Tai Simpson, ICASDV*

In this workshop we explore Indigenous storytelling to build community in our work as advocates & healers. We touch on bias, prejudice, and understanding how culture, power, and privilege impact our work. This is an opportunity to reflect, ask hard questions of ourselves, and learn how our own experience or lack thereof can adversely impact the movement to end violence in our communities.

Survivors Panel

It can be difficult to understand how to be a support system for survivors of intimate partner violence. This workshop will present firsthand knowledge from survivors of abuse about what techniques work, what approaches were counterproductive and some of the ways friends, family and community members were able to provide support in a safe and transformative way.

CLOSING SESSION

What You Can Do to Help – The conversation continues. Join presenters and YWCA staff for discussions of the topics presented or to answer any questions about how you can help end violence and abuse. We Can Do It!

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